Why do I use Langer curettes?

Interviewee: Pekka Kangasniemi, D.D.S.
Interviewer: Mika Sande, Area Export Manager/LM-Instruments

Pekka, you use Langer curettes. What's the basis for your choice?

Periodontal procedures can be performed with a wide variety of instruments. Some like one type while others prefer something else – aptitude, habit, taste … I think that the Langer set, which consists of only three instruments, is a handy curette series that is just right for my needs.

Pekka Kangasniemi, D.D.S

How do Langer curettes differ from the norm?

The blade structure of a general purpose curette combined with Gracey shank angles! Two cutting edges, a round tip and shanks, which allow access to any area. A different but definitely effective solution!

For which procedures do you use Langer curettes?

I use them for both the removal of dental calculus and root planing. Two different procedures with a single instrument! Three instruments. That's all you need! A red 1/2 for lower molars, a green 3/4 for upper molars and a blue 5/6 for the incisors.

How do you use Langer curettes?

The blade structure of a general purpose curette allows for the treatment of mesial and distal surfaces with a single instrument, by angling the lower shank of the instrument toward each side of the surface being worked on. I can also work on buccal and lingual surfaces in the same way.

The Standard Langer tip extends completely through the approximal gap.

What techniques do you use in removing dental calculus?

The blade's working – or front – surface is at a 90° angle to the lower shank. Effective removal of dental calculus is achieved with an 80-90° blade working angle and by 'activating' the blade laterally during a stroke – that is, toward the tooth surface. The required angle is achieved by holding the lower shank in line with or at a 10° angle toward the tooth, not away from it. I use my entire arm's rotation around the support finger like a lever on the instrument. By limiting the length of each stroke, I can also maintain control over angle changes. This technique provides power, efficiency and precision without wearing out the fingers or hand.

What method do you use for root planing?

Effective planing is achieved with a 60-70° working angle. Angling the lower shank so that it is at a 20-30° angle to the tooth and only applying a reasonable amount of pressure during the stroke will result in a smooth tooth finish. A diagnostic stroke can be light as a feather, with the working motion a versatile combination of arm, hand and finger movements.

Can concave and convex tooth surfaces be treated with a Langer curette?

Applying the blade both horizontally and vertically as well as diagonally allows for the working of all types of tooth contours. So, I adapt ordinary horizontal and vertical techniques as widely as possible.

Which do you prefer:
the Standard or Mini-Langer?

Root planing procedure with a Mini-Langer tip.

The standard model comes with a short lower shank and long blade. This provides a strong hold and the blade can completely penetrate between the teeth. This is why the Standard model is economical and effective in general depuration.
The Mini model has a long lower shank and a short, sharply angled and reduced blade. It can reach deep, narrow pockets and extremely convex or concave surfaces. It's also possible to perform furcation procedures with a Mini-Langer. Both can be used in periodontal surgery and periodontal pocket degranulation. Personally, I think that the Mini-Langer is more versatile and important.

What benefits do Langer curettes provide over other curettes?

The number of instruments required can be reduced. It's easier to acquaint oneself with and properly learn how to use fewer instruments. Clinical procedures can thus be simpler and more effective due to fewer changes, among other things. This is why I prefer using Langer curettes in the treatment of, for example, recall patients.

Are Langer curettes difficult to sharpen?

Due to their manufacturing technique, Langer curettes are extremely durable and stay sharp for a long time. I test them after each use and, if necessary, sharpen them right around the blade at a 10° V-angle. Preferably with an LM-Rondo in just a few seconds!